

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 870

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Pastor Bartholomew Orr upon the celebration of 25 years in the ministry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those venerable pastors, who, through their great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, have enriched the lives of the people of their respective communities and who have distinguished themselves as community and religious leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Bartholomew Orr, pastor of Brown Missionary Baptist Church, is one such extraordinary person; his life and ministry affirm his commitment to the principles of faith, perseverance, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bartholomew Orr will be celebrating a twenty-five-year milestone of ministry with the members of his congregation on Sunday, May 28, 2006, at the newly relocated Brown Missionary Baptist Church in Southaven, Mississippi, where he has been pastoring for the past fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Bartholomew Orr began preaching in 1981 at the age of eleven; he was licensed to preach in 1983 and ordained in 1986; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Southaven High School in 1987 as Salutatorian of his class, Pastor Orr received his bachelor's degree in 1991 from Christian Brothers University in Memphis; he then earned his Master of Divinity degree from Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary in Germantown, Tennessee, where he received the Lifeway Pastoral Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, he was elected pastor of Brown Missionary Baptist Church on January 25, 1989, and under his leadership the church has experienced tremendous growth, both spiritually and in terms of membership; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Orr's skillful leadership, new programs have been created to meet the needs of the membership, including a Couples Ministry, Singles Ministry, Senior Ministry, and Excellence in Education Ministry; a new Family Enrichment Wing was erected and completed in September of 1998, which houses classrooms, a library, a nursery, and a fellowship hall to better serve the growing congregation; and

WHEREAS, during Pastor Orr's commendable tenure with Brown Missionary Baptist Church, he has been instrumental in the acquisition of new property, which will enable the continued expansion of the congregation, whose membership now exceeds 1,800; a computer system has also been implemented for financial accounting and membership management; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Orr's concern for the growth and edification of God's people extends beyond the Church, and he finds his greatest reward in the lives that have been changed, homes that have been strengthened, and marriages that have been restored; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Orr serves with distinction as a member of several boards of directors and takes an active role in the community; he conducts revivals and also speaks regularly at school and civic functions; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Orr, as he has in the past, continues to do remarkable work for the Lord. He and his wife, the former Valarie R. Bates, work humbly and diligently together, thereby tremendously blessing their church family by their presence within the lives of the congregation; they have been blessed with four sons, Bartholomew II, Valiant Bates, Bradford Vincent, and Brandon; and

WHEREAS, all of the Brown Missionary Baptist Church's good works, performed under the astute guidance of Pastor Orr during the past fourteen years, have been done to the glory of God, as the Church strives to continue its outreach to the community by demonstrating God's agape love; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bartholomew Orr has dedicated his life to serving the Lord, striving to bring happiness, peace, and a closer understanding of God to all who seek it, and has earned the unwavering respect and gratitude of the General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Pastor Bartholomew Orr for the first twenty-five years of his life's work in the ministry, and for his fourteen years of devotion to spreading the Good News at Brown Missionary Baptist Church, and join with Pastor Orr and his congregation in celebrating this milestone, as we extend our best wishes for a happy and successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.